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Katrina T. Holland
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Sting et al.

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Serial No.: Not Assigned

Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: Herewith

Docket No.: 1370/12

For: ENVELOPE-FILLING BENCH

* *

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Kindly amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the paragraph heading on page 1, before line 5, as follows:

--Technical Field --.

Please insert the paragraph heading on page 1, before line 19, as follows:

--Related Art --.

Please insert the paragraph heading on page 1, before line 38, as follows:

--Summary of the Invention --.

Please insert the paragraph heading on page 2, before line 26, as follows:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--.

Please insert the paragraph heading on page 3, before line 4, as follows:

--Detailed Description of the Invention--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please insert the paragraph heading on page 9, before line 3, as follows:

-- What is claimed is: --.

Please amend claims 1 through 6 as follows:

1. (Amended) An envelope-filling bench for adding onto a push-in station of a mail-processing machine, in which enclosures or sets of enclosures are conveyed into the push-in station by means of a conveyor and are pushed into envelopes by means of a push-in arrangement, said envelopes being conveyed, on the envelope-filling bench, into a position opposite the push-in arrangement, opened, held ready for receiving the enclosures or sets of enclosures and, once filled, being closed and conveyed further, characterized in that the envelope-filling bench has two vertical, mutually parallel transverse partition walls which can be connected to an end wall of the push-in station, run transversely to the envelope-transporting direction and extend in a bottom region of an angled sheet-metal C-profile support, which extends in the envelope-transporting direction and opens towards the push-in station, and are fastened on said support, in that an angled sheet-metal L-profile support is welded to the sheet-metal C-profile support so as to form, in the top part of the sheet-metal C-profile support, a box chamber which has a rectangular cross section and runs in the envelope-conveying direction, and in that mounted on the side walls of the box chamber, in pre-punched openings of the sheet-metal C-profile support and/or the sheet-metal L-profile support, are horizontal shafts or spindles of rollers of envelope-conveying means, which convey envelopes on the top outer surface of the sheet-metal C-profile support.

2. (Amended) An envelope-filling bench according to Claim 1, wherein the bottom region of the sheet-metal C-profile support, between the transverse partition walls, a drive motor is flanged on the vertical wall of the sheet-metal C-profile support and bears on its shaft, on that side of the vertical wall of the sheet-metal C-profile support which is remote from the push-in station, a belt pulley which is coupled, via a drive belt, to a drive wheel or a drive belt pulley for the envelope-conveying means.

3. (Amended) An envelope-filling bench according to Claim 1, wherein shafts and/or spindles bear the rollers or wheels of the envelope-conveying means in a floating manner on that side of said box chamber which is directed towards the push-in station, such that an envelope-conveying belt or an envelope-transporting chain may be positioned directly on the rollers or wheels, or removed therefrom, essentially without any dismantling measures being required.

4. (Amended) An envelope-filling bench according to Claim 1, wherein the transverse partition walls have vertical flanges which are formed by angling, are oriented parallel to the envelope-conveying direction and in which there are provided openings which can be pushed over retaining supports projecting away from the end wall of the push-in station.

5. (Amended) An envelope-filling bench according to Claim 1, wherein cut-out side strips of the bottom part of the sheet-metal C-profile support are bent upwards alongside the transverse partition walls, in order to stiffen and support the latter, and are welded firmly on the transverse partition walls.

6. (Amended) An envelope-filling bench according to Claim 1, wherein at that end of the box chamber which is located counter to the envelope-conveying direction,

in the top and side walls of said box chamber, a transverse incision is formed by corresponding punched cutouts of the sheet-metal C-profile support and of the sheet-metal L-profile support, said incision serving for receiving a transverse conveying housing which contains a circulating conveying belt whose top strand is located approximately in the plane of the top side of the envelope-filling bench.

REMARKS

The amendments to the specification as set forth above are intended to clarify and set apart the various sections of the subject application.

The amendments to the claims as set forth above are intended to remove all multiple dependent claims from the subject application and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the specification and claims 1 through 6, which illustrates all of the changes made to the specification and claims pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**". Deleted language is bracketed and added language is underlined.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments in connection with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. **50-0426**.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS & WILSON, P.A.

Date: 29 March 2001 By: _____

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1370/12 JLW/lsg

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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Brief Description of the Drawings

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Detailed Description

IN THE CLAIMS:

The paragraph heading has been inserted on page 9, before line 3, as follows:

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) An [E]envelope-filling bench [(6)] for adding onto a push-in station [(1)] of a mail-processing machine [(2)], in which enclosures or sets of enclosures are conveyed into the push-in station [(1)] by means of a conveyor [(3)] and are pushed into envelopes [(7)] by means of a push-in arrangement [(5)], said envelopes being conveyed, on the envelope-filling bench [(6)], into a position opposite the push-in arrangement [(5)], opened, held ready for receiving the enclosures or sets of enclosures and, once filled, being closed and conveyed further, characterized in that the envelope-filling bench [(6)] has two vertical, mutually parallel transverse partition walls [(25, 26)] which can be connected to an end wall of the push-in station, run transversely to the envelope-transporting direction and extend in a bottom region of an angled sheet-metal C-profile support [(31)], which extends in the envelope-transporting direction and opens towards the push-in station [(1)], and are fastened on said support, in that an angled sheet-metal L-profile support [(34)] is welded to the sheet-metal C-profile support [(31)] so as to form, in the top part of the sheet-metal C-profile support [(31)], a box chamber [(35)] which has a rectangular cross section and runs in the envelope-conveying direction, and in that mounted on the side walls of the box chamber [(35)], in pre-punched openings of the sheet-metal C-profile support [(31)] and/or the sheet-metal L-profile support [(34)], are horizontal shafts or spindles of rollers [(12, 13, 14)] of envelope-conveying means [(8)], which convey envelopes on the top outer surface of the sheet-metal C-profile support [(31)].

2. (Amended) An [E]envelope-filling bench according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein in the bottom region of the sheet-metal C-profile support [(31)], between the transverse partition walls [(25, 26)], a drive motor [(19)] is flanged on the vertical wall of the sheet-metal C-profile support [(31)] and bears on its shaft, on that side of the vertical wall of the sheet-metal C-profile support [(31)] which is remote from the push-in station [(1)], a belt pulley [(18)] which is coupled, via a drive belt [(17)], to a drive wheel or a drive belt pulley [(16)] for the envelope-conveying means [(8)].

3. (Amended) An [E]envelope-filling bench according to Claim 1 [or 2, characterized in that], wherein shafts and/or spindles bear the rollers or wheels [(12, 13, 14)] of the envelope-conveying means in a floating manner on that side of said box chamber [(35)] which is directed towards the push-in station [(1)], such that an envelope-conveying belt [(8)] or an envelope-transporting chain may be positioned directly on the rollers or wheels [(12, 13, 14)], or removed therefrom, essentially without any dismantling measures being required.

4. (Amended) An [E]envelope-filling bench according to [one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the transverse partition walls [(25, 26)] have vertical flanges [(27, 28)] which are formed by angling, are oriented parallel to the envelope-conveying direction and in which there are provided openings [(43)] which can be pushed over retaining supports [(44)] projecting away from the end wall of the push-in station.

5. (Amended) An [E]envelope-filling bench according to [one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein cut-out side strips [(33)] of the bottom part of the sheet-metal C-profile support [(31)] are bent upwards alongside the transverse partition walls [(25, 26)], in order to stiffen and support the latter, and are welded firmly on the transverse partition walls.

6. (Amended) An [E]envelope-filling bench according to [one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein at that end of the box chamber [(35)] which is located counter to the envelope-conveying direction, in the top and side walls of said box chamber, a transverse incision [(39)] is formed by corresponding punched cutouts of the sheet-metal C-profile support [(31)] and of the sheet-metal L-profile support [(34)], said incision serving for receiving a transverse conveying housing [(20)] which contains a circulating conveying belt whose top strand is located approximately in the plane of the top side of the envelope-filling bench.